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- **Lucas, John M.**
Leicestershire, LE175ES (GB)
- **Blevins, Terry**
Texas 78681 (US)
- **Beoughter, Ken**
Texas 78681 (US)

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(74) Representative: **Bohnenberger, Johannes et al**
Meissner, Bolte & Partner GbR
Postfach 86 06 24
81633 München (DE)

(71) Applicant: **Fisher-Rosemount Systems, Inc.**
Austin, TX 78759 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **Nixon, Mark J.**
Texas 78681 (US)

(54) **Apparatus and methods to access information associated with a process control system**

(57) Example apparatus and methods to access information associated with a process control system are disclosed. A disclosed example method involves receiving a first user-defined parameter name to reference a first datum value in a first data source. The first one of a plurality of data source interfaces is enabled to access the first datum value in the first data source. The example method also involves enabling referencing the first datum value in the first data source based on the first user-defined parameter name. In addition, data source interface software is then accessed to access the first datum value in the first data source in response to receiving a first data access request including the first user-defined parameter name.

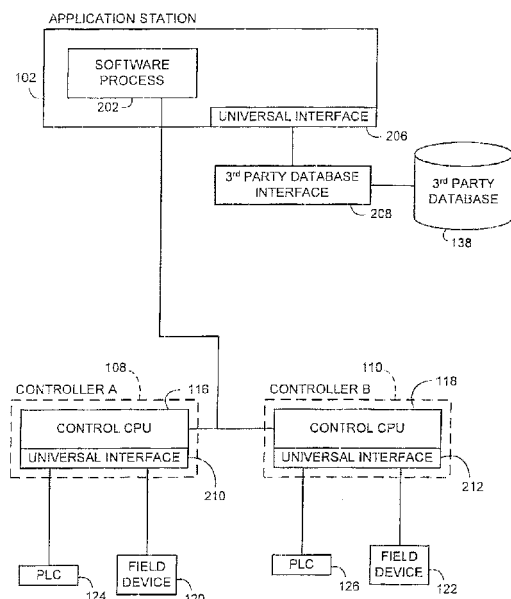


FIG 2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 15 7189

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2005/213722 A1 (STORMON CHARLES D [US] ET AL) 29 September 2005 (2005-09-29) * abstract * * paragraphs [0005] - [0009] * * paragraphs [0012], [0013] * * paragraphs [0024] - [0027] * * paragraph [0042] * * figure 4 *	1-15,28	INV. G06F9/44 G05B19/418
A	US 2006/218311 A1 (MARANAT PRASHANT [IN] ET AL) 28 September 2006 (2006-09-28) * abstract * * paragraphs [0011] - [0016] * * paragraph [0024] *	1-15,28	
A	US 6 032 208 A (NIXON MARK [US] ET AL) 29 February 2000 (2000-02-29) * abstract * * column 4, lines 25-35 * * column 4, lines 56-67 * * claim 1 *	1-15,28	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			G06F G05B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 29 June 2010	Examiner de Man, Ronald
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



Application Number

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

- ☒ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

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- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

- ☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 08 15 7189

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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29-06-2010

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2005213722 A1	29-09-2005	EP 1738573 A2 WO 2005069898 A2	03-01-2007 04-08-2005
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US 6032208 A	29-02-2000	NONE	